Request of Andhra Pradesh Government to open Singareni Coalfields Limited

2437. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to clear Rs. 500 crores as arrears in order to open the Singareni Coalfields Limited closed due to strike by workers; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does nor arise in view of answer given to part (a) above.

Survivors of Mine Collapse in West Bengal

2438. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether signs of survivours were detected in an abandoned mine that had collapsed in West Bengal in October, 2001;

(b) the action taken by the Director General of Mines Safety to rescue them;

(c) the details of persons rescued and action taken against the mafia sending the miners; and

(d) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the mishap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) After occurrence of subsidence on 10-10-2001 at Lalbandh near Asansol, West Bengal in a private land due to illegal mining the district administration requested the ECL management to conduct rescue/ recovery operations. During the operations no indication of any